



Testimony of Marie C. O'Brien, President
Connecticut Development Authority

Presented to
Commerce Committee
February 28, 2008

Raised Bill No. 5589 An Act Concerning Brownfields and
Raised Bill No. 5586 An Act Establishing an Account for Brownfields
Remediation and Redevelopment

Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Raised Bills 5589 and 5586 concerning brownfields.

We are pleased that the Governor and Legislature are continuing discussions regarding Brownfields. Environmental remediation and re-use of existing infrastructure go hand in hand with the economic growth principles recommended by the Responsible Growth Task Force. As referenced in SB 39, the Governor's Responsible Growth bill, the State's combined strengths can increase the opportunities for good paying jobs for Connecticut citizens and for greater market penetration for Connecticut businesses.

As you know, CDA/CBRA play an important financing role in assisting the state of Connecticut, municipalities and others in cleaning up and promoting brownfield sites for productive re-use. As the State's financing partner for economic development activities, CDA recognizes the increasing competition from other states to attract new industry partners. The CDA's Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and loan programs are important tools that municipalities and developers utilize in order to clean up and re-use brownfield sites thus generating future property and other tax revenues for the State of Connecticut.

With the shared vision of the partners of the newly-created Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development—CDA, DECD, DEP and DPH—we have the foundation for strong leadership to achieve our goals.

I am enthusiastic about the forward direction the Governor and Legislature are taking to embrace responsible economic growth. CDA will continue to apply its financial expertise, including its flexible programs and proven ability to leverage private capital, to the state's brownfields initiatives. I also would like to commend the members of the Brownfields Task Force who have spent many hours in reviewing and discussing additional ideas in this area. The commitment to brownfields is laudatory.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.